

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for preparing a formulation of betacarotene in an aqueous medium, wherein the formulation contains at least polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate and isopropyl myristate as a mediator of solubility and at least one of ascorbyl palmitate and alpha-tocopherol as an antioxidant, comprising heating an aqueous solution of polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate to a temperature between 70°C and 140°C, adding beta-carotene to the heated aqueous solution of polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate with stirring, adding at least one of ascorbyl palmitate and alpha-tocopherol as antioxidant to the solution of ~~polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxy-stearate~~ polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate and beta-carotene heated to a temperature of 75°C +/-2°C, and diluting the solution thus obtained by adding water to make an injectable formulation containing 0.1-10% (w/v) beta-carotene, 10-40% (w/v) ~~polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxy-stearate~~ polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate and 5-20% (w/v) isopropyl myristate.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate is 10-40% (w/v).

3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said concentration is 15-20% (w/v).

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the beta-carotene content is 0.1-10% (w/v).

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said beta-carotene content is 1-5% (w/v).

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solution contains isopropyl myristate as an additional mediator of solubility in a concentration of 5-20% (w/v).

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said concentration of isopropyl myristate is 5-10% (w/v).

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the antioxidant is 0.01-1.0% (w/v).

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the concentration of the antioxidant is 0.02-0.3% (w/v).

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of ascorbyl palmitate and alpha-tocopherol each is 0.005-0.05% (w/v).

11. (original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said concentration of ascorbyl palmitate and alpha-tocopherol each is 0.01-0.15% (w/v).

12. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein following cooling to $30^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ the solution containing polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate, beta-carotene and at least one antioxidant is mixed with a preservative.

13. (original) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said preservative is benzyl alcohol in an amount of 5 mg/ml.

14. (new) A method for preparing a formulation of betacarotene in an aqueous medium, wherein the formulation contains at least polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate and isopropyl myristate as a mediator of solubility and at least one of ascorbyl palmitate and/or alpha-tocopherol as an antioxidant,

comprising heating an aqueous solution of polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate to a temperature between 70°C and 140°C, adding beta-carotene to the heated aqueous solution of polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate with stirring, adding at least one of said antioxidant to the solution of polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate and beta-carotene, diluting the solution thus obtained by adding water to make an injectable formulation containing 0.1-10% (w/v) beta-carotene, 10-40% (w/v) polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate and 5-20% (w/v) isopropyl myristate.

15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the concentration of polyoxyethylene-660-hydroxystearate is 10-40% (w/v).

16. (new) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ascorbyl palmitate is present but alpha-tocopherol is not present.

17. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein ascorbyl palmitate is not present.